

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain pending. Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the original claims in this and related applications.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,969,828 to Kawasaki et al ("Kawasaki"). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration requested.

According to the present invention, bitmap image information, which has not been divided, is compressed, and drawing instructions are produced. See, for example, the description at p. 7, line 18-p. 8, line 6 of the application as filed. An instruction dividing and distributing part 4 (Fig. 1) receives the drawing instructions, and, if necessary, the drawing instructions are divided into a plurality of sets of drawing instructions, and the drawing instructions are distributed to drawing processing parts. See, for example, the exemplary description at p. 8, line 14- p. 10, line 12 of the application as filed. Thus, according to the present invention, dividing processing is carried out not before compressing processing but after compressing processing.

As such, independent claims 1 and 9 recite an image processing device comprising, *inter alia*, "a dividing part which divides compressed drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions without decompressing them. . . ." [Emphasis added]. Similarly, independent claim 5 has been amended to recite an image processing method comprising the act of "dividing compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions without decompressing them." [Emphasis added].

Unlike the claimed invention, Kawasaki discloses an art in which image data is divided into the number of blocks, which number corresponds to the number of a plurality of compressing parts (28, 29 in Fig. 4), and the respective image blocks thus obtained are then compressed. See Col. 12, lines 44-48. Thereafter, a plurality of decompressing


parts (30, 31 in Fig. 4) decompress the thus-compressed image blocks. Accordingly, Kawasaki does not teach or suggest “a dividing part which divides compressed drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions” nor “dividing compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions” as recited by claims 1, 5, and 9.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend from one of claims 1 and 5, respectively, and contain every limitation recited therein. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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